

1           1.    A communications system, comprising:  
2                   a telephone;  
3                   a data network;  
4                   a device coupled to the data network and telephone; and  
5                   a communications routine executable in the device to control  
6                   communications of voice data between the telephone and the data network.

1           2.    The communications system of claim 1, wherein the data network is an  
2                   Internet protocol network.

1           3.    The communications system of claim 1, further comprising a remote  
2                   system coupled to the data network, the remote system adapted to receive voice data over  
3                   the data network from the communications routine.

1           4.    The communications system of claim 3, wherein the remote system is  
2                   adapted to further transmit voice data over the data network to the telephone.

1           5.    The communications system of claim 1, further comprising a telephone  
2                   line coupled to the telephone and the device.

1           6.    The communications system of claim 5, further comprising a first  
2                   interface unit coupled between the telephone and the telephone line, the first interface  
3                   unit adapted to establish communication between the telephone and the device in a first  
4                   mode.

1           7.    The communications system of claim 6, wherein the first interface unit is  
2                   adapted to establish a POTS connection between the telephone and the telephone line in a  
3                   second mode.

1           8.     The communications system of claim 1, wherein the communications  
2     routine is executable to receive a voice command from a user through the telephone to  
3     place a telephone call over the data network.

1           9.     The communications system of claim 1, wherein the communications  
2     routine is executable to receive a remote phone call over the data network.

1           10.    The communications system of claim 1, wherein the device includes  
2     layers to transfer voice data to and from the data network.

1           11.    The communications system of claim 1, further comprising a telephone  
2     network and at least another telephone, the telephones coupled to the telephone network.

1           12.    A system for connection to a data network, comprising:  
2                    an interface circuit capable of being coupled to a telephone network  
3                    having a telephone; and  
4                    a controller adapted to communicate voice data between the telephone and  
5     the data network.

1           13.    The system of claim 12, wherein the controller is adapted to receive a  
2     voice command from the telephone and to respond to the voice command.

1           14.    The system of claim 12, wherein the controller is adapted to perform voice  
2     communication with a remote system over the data network.

1           15.    The system of claim 14, wherein the controller is adapted to perform a  
2     POTS telephone communication over the telephone network.

1           16.    The system of claim 12, wherein the controller is adapted to receive a  
2     telephone call over the data network.

1           17. The system of claim 12, wherein the controller is adapted to convert the  
2 voice data into an Internet protocol format for sending over the data network.

1           18. The system of claim 12, wherein the controller includes software.

1           19. A method of placing network telephone calls, the method comprising:  
2           establishing a connection with a data network;  
3           receiving voice data from a telephone; and  
4           transferring the voice data from the telephone to the data network.

1           20. The method of claim 19, wherein transferring the voice data includes  
2 transferring voice data over an Internet protocol data network.

1           21. The method of claim 19, wherein receiving the voice data includes  
2 receiving the voice data over a telephone line from the telephone.

1           22. The method of claim 19, further comprising receiving a telephone call  
2 over the data network.

1           23. The method of claim 22, further comprising issuing an indication to  
2 activate a notification that a telephone call has been received.

1           24. The method of claim 23, further comprising activating a ringer associated  
2 with the telephone.

1           25. A system for communicating with a data network, comprising:  
2           a telephone line;  
3           a telephone coupled to the telephone line;  
4           a device adapted to receive voice from the telephone line and including a  
5 controller adapted to communicate voice data between the telephone and the data  
6 network.

1           26. The system of claim 25, wherein the controller is further adapted to  
2 perform a POTS telephone call on the telephone line concurrently with communicating  
3 voice data between the telephone and the data network.

1           27. The system of claim 26, wherein voice data associated with POTS  
2 telephone call is different from voice data associated with the communication between  
3 the telephone and data network.

1           28. The system of claim 26 further comprising an interface circuit coupled to  
2 the device, the interface circuit including a first unit adapted to receive a carrier signal on  
3 the telephone line carrying the voice data, and a second unit adapted to receive a  
4 baseband signal over the telephone line.

1           29. An article including one or more machine-readable storage media  
2 containing instructions for controlling communications between a telephone system and a  
3 data network, the instruction when executed causing the system to:

4           receive voice data transferred from a telephone over a communications  
5 line;

6           convert the voice data into a predetermined format; and  
7           transmit the voice data in the predetermined format to the data network.